

BLM News

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
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GOLD EXPLORATION PROJECT PROPOSED

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Elko Field Office has received a proposal from Vista Nevada Corporation to conduct an expanded gold exploration program in the Maverick Springs Range, south of Ruby Marshes in southern Elko County during 2006.

Vista Nevada Corporation conducted exploration activities in Maverick Springs for three years (2002 through 2004). Under Federal mining regulations, companies may conduct exploration activities with a Mining "Notice" if the surface disturbance is five acres or less. For surface disturbance more than five acres, a Plan of Operations and environmental analysis are required.

Vista's exploration work has progressed to the point that they need to work under a Plan of Operations because their exploration activities have expanded to the point that future work will exceed the five acre limit of a Notice. From 2002 to 2004, they disturbed slightly less than five acres. Vista is proposing a 25-hole drilling program using a track-mounted reverse circulation drill rig in an approximate four square-mile area. No grading or dirt work would be required and disturbance would be caused by cross country travel. Disturbance for access roads would average about 12 to 14 feet wide. Each drill site would require an area approximately 30 feet wide by 40 feet long. The new drilling program would disturb less than three acres.

BLM Elko Field Office has prepared an Environmental Assessment to analyze potential impacts of the project.

To receive a copy of the Assessment or for questions, more information, or to comment about the project, please contact Deb McFarlane by phone – (775) 753-0200, by email – Deb_McFarlane@nv.blm.gov, or by mail – 3900 East Idaho St., Elko, NV, 89801. Written comments should be submitted by close of business on February 23, 2006.

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